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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/549,004	SHERLOCK ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Simon Sing	2645	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 06/22/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9, 11-18 and 20-30.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 14 April 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-9, 11-18 and 20-30 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
 - 2.1 Claim 1 discloses a telephony services management system for a subscriber with a cable television head end. The management system comprising a local database and interface device to initiate and control the presentation and delivery and telephone services to the subscriber through a display device, which simultaneously displays television programming.

Prior art of Blumhardt et al. (US 5,629,978) discloses a telephone service via broadband cable service, and telephone service selection is displayed on a television screen. Blumhardt fails to teach a local database to initiate a telephone service, and displaying telephone service simultaneously with television programming on a television screen.
 - 2.2 Claims 18 and 26 discloses methods for managing personal messages and telephone directories in a multi-user environment, such that multiple users are displayed on a screen menu, simultaneously with television programming on a television screen,

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and a particular user is allowed to access his messages or directory when the particular user is chosen from the menu.

Prior art of Ahman et al. (US 6,263,507) discloses a method for simultaneously displaying news obtained from Internet and from television programming. Ahman fails to teach displaying a menu with multiple users, and retrieving messages or telephone directory through said menu. Prior art of Wick et al. (US 5,796,394) discloses a method for managing messages for multiple users (figures 1 and 4). However, there is no motivation to combined Ahmen and Wick so that a multi-user menu is displayed simultaneously with television programming.

2.3 Claims 2-9, 11-17, 20-25 and 27-30 are dependent of claims 1, 18 and 26, and therefore allowed.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

4.1 Schein et al. (US 6,323,911) discloses a system and method for simultaneously displaying a television program and a program guide.


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4.2 Bendinelli et al. (US 6,061,719) discloses a synchronized presentation of television programming and web content.



S.S.

12/22/2004



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